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Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among registered diagnostic medical sonographers and vascular technologists: A representative sample.

December 2009 · Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography 25:287-299

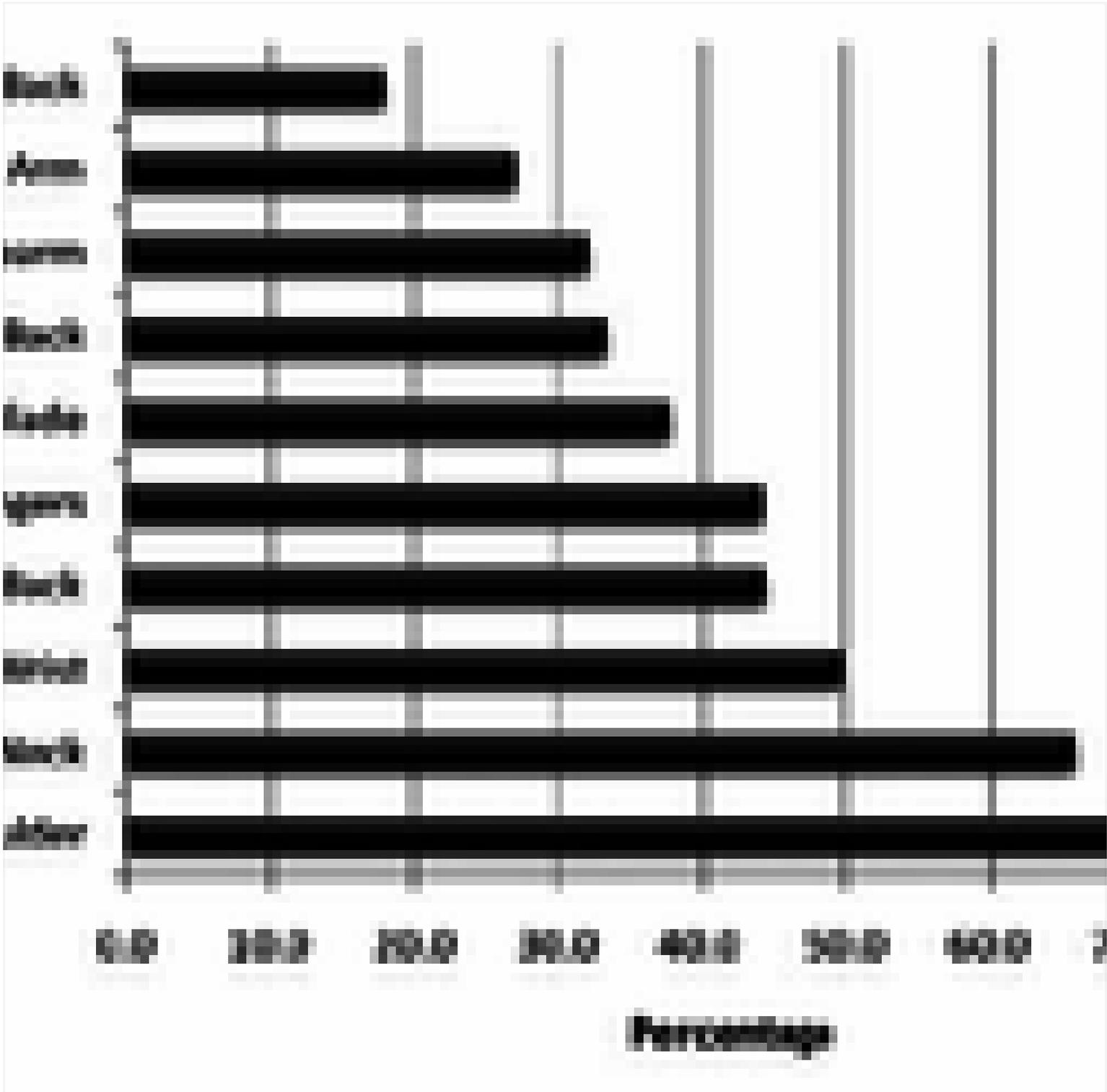
DOI · 10.1177/8756479309351748

 Kevin D Evans ·  Shawn Roll · Joan Baker

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Abstract

Literature indicates a significant history of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMSD) among diagnostic medical sonographers (DMS) and vascular technologist (VTs). To gather current data related to this historical trend, the authors administered a survey to a random and convenient sample of 5200 registered DMS and VTs. The invitation to complete the survey on a secure Web site yielded the largest participant sample to date of 2963 completed surveys (57% response). Data relative to the prevalence of WRMSD were analyzed and compared to other WRMSD research over the past decade. Results indicated that 90% of respondents were scanning in pain, a 9% increase since the last large-scale survey in 1997. Across all demographics, shoulder pain is most common, with older and more experienced sonographers having more finger, hand, and wrist pain than other groups. Pain continues to be related to pressure applied to the transducer, abduction of the arm, and twisting of the neck and trunk. Ergonomic equipment and education are provided by application specialists, but the incidence of WRMSD appears to be unabated. Higher order research, including randomized trials, with education and ergonomic interventions is needed to protect DMS and VTs who are necessary to meet increasing health care demands.



... The manual navigation of the US transducer to the appropriate location and maintenance of a suitable acoustic window are linked to additional challenges. While the cumbersome procedure induces a slow learning curve [6,7], work-related musculoskeletal disorders have been associated with medical sonographers [8], impeding the quality of US-based interventions over time. Both of these issues relate to the freehand nature of previous US-guided facet joint injections, suggesting more automated solutions [9]. ...

Reference: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among registered diagnostic m...

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 Kevin D Evans ·  Shawn Roll ·  Christina D Hutmire ·  Joan P. Baker

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Mar 2010 · Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

 Kevin D Evans ·  Shawn Roll ·  Xiaobai Li ·  Steffen Sammet

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